



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

1913 Liberty Head nickel

1 message

Matthew Healey <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Mar 6, 2013 at 3:01 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Newman,

I'm writing a story for the New York Times about the Walton specimen of the 1913 Liberty Head nickel that is coming up for sale next month. In talking to Mark Borckardt he mentioned that you were one of the owners who at one time had all five of the nickels, and are still active in the hobby.

I would love to ask you for any comments or recollections you may be able to share about your time owning such legendary coins. If you prefer, we can communicate by email, or I'd be happy to telephone you at your convenience.

The story is to (hopefully) appear this Sunday, so I'd like to be in touch before Friday (March 8th) if possible.

Many thanks!

~~~~~

Matthew Healey  
for The New York Times  
tel. (917) [REDACTED]



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

---

**Re: 1913 Liberty Head nickel**

4 messages

Thu, Mar 7, 2013 at 12:40 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Dear Matthew Healey:

You just asked me for comment about a 1913 Liberty Head Nickel offered at a coming auction sale. This was at the suggestion of Mark Borckardt .of Heritage Galleries. In 1941 Eric P. Newman (myself) and Burdette G. Johnson, both of St. Louis, Missouri, purchased from the Estate of Edward Howland Robinson Green (son of Hetty Green, the richest woman in America and the "Witch of Wall Street) a group of coins including all five 1913 Liberty Head Nickels. The two of us purchasers soon sold later in 1941 the piece presently to be auctioned and the piece has had several owners since 1941. I believe that I am the only survivor of its various owners. I am so lucky to have lived so long and hope I have a few marbles left.

Eric P. Newman      Tel: [REDACTED]  
6450 Cecil Ave., St. Louis MO 63105

Home address:

In a message dated 3/6/2013 2:01:11 P.M. Central Standard Time, [REDACTED] writes:

Dear Mr. Newman,

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Matthew Healey
for The New York Times
tel. (917) [REDACTED]

Borckardt, Mark - 1345 <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Mar 7, 2013 at 1:07 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Eric,

Thank you so much.

Mark

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 12:41 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Borckardt, Mark - 1345
Subject: Re: 1913 Liberty Head nickel

[Quoted text hidden]

Matthew Healey <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Mar 7, 2013 at 2:19 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Newman,

Thank you so much for your reply, I do appreciate it. I'm pleased to have had the opportunity to communicate with you!

Do you have any personal recollections from ever meeting Col. E.H.R. Green? I read that you and he were briefly acquainted. What was his personality like? He is such a legend among collectors, but it is hard to find out anything about what kind of a person he was.

Warmest regards,
Matthew Healey

Tel.: [REDACTED]

[Quoted text hidden]

--

~~~~~

Matthew Healey

---

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: [REDACTED]

Sat, Mar 9, 2013 at 1:05 PM

Dear Mr. Healy:

When I was a student junior at MIT in 1931 Col. E. H .R. Green came to the Cambridge Mass. campus to thank the many volunteer MIT students and faculty who helped gather detail for an appendectomy on a scientist in Little America. I do not remember if I was present at the occasion or not but I had helped very slightly in gathering data..

Green was doing experimental radio contact with Little America from his radio tower at Round Hill, Massachusetts with MIT assistance at the time. I knew nothing about Col. Green personally at the time.  
Eric P. Newman

In a message dated 3/7/2013 2:19:18 P.M. Central Standard Time, [REDACTED] writes:

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Matthew Healey



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Tel: [REDACTED]

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--

~~~~~

Matthew Healey



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

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## Fwd: First questions for NY Times interview

1 message

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Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Oct 1, 2013 at 3:55 PM

Reply-To: Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

To: Andy Newman <[REDACTED]> Stuart & Maureen Levine <[REDACTED]> Stuart & Maureen Levine <[REDACTED]>

----- Original message -----

From: Matthew Healey <[REDACTED]>

Date: 10/01/2013 2:32 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: First questions for NY Times interview

Dear Mr. Newman,

First of all, thank you again.

I have received some basic background on your collection from Heritage as well as done a little research online about your life and work. But I am hoping you can share some more.

There is no great urgency here. Please feel free to answer these at your leisure over the next few days. I would appreciate longer answers, if you can do that. They don't all need to be answered at once.

1. How did the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society come into being, and can you give me some examples of the work the society has done so far? What are some things you would like the Society to do in the near future?
2. You've been a coin collector for a very long time. When exactly did you start? What first attracted you to the hobby? How was the hobby different in those days? What are some specific early memories you have of coin collecting in your younger days?
3. You've made great contributions to numismatics. What do you feel you've gotten out of the hobby in return? How has coin collecting benefited you?
4. What are some of your favorite coins -- and why? How did you obtain them? What was your best "deal" ever? Do you prefer coins with historical interest, or rarity, or a sentimental story behind them?
5. You've sold some extraordinary coins recently, with more up for sale soon. Are there any coins you would never consider selling?
6. Every collector loves the thrill of the hunt. What was your greatest "catch"? Do you have any stories of coins you wanted that "got away"?
7. What were some of your favorite experiences as a coin collector?
8. What advice would you give to someone taking up the hobby today?

That's all I have for now, although I'm sure that as we continue our discussion, I will think of some more. Thanks again for your time! If you feel you'd like to talk by phone, please don't hesitate to call me. My number is below.

Warmest regards,

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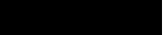
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Matthew Healey  




Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

---

## New York Times Interview

1 message

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[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
to: [REDACTED]

Fri, Oct 11, 2013 at 2:07 PM

Your dad would like the following to be included to the guy doing the interview:

If anyone from the New York Times wishes further detail in any of the areas suggested in writing, please feel free to contact me and I will be glad to make additions and clarifications.



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

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**(no subject)**

1 message

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[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
to: [REDACTED]

Fri, Oct 11, 2013 at 1:58 PM



**New York 3.docx**  
11K

No. 3

The hobby has been a wonderful window into history and other fields for me. Numismatics involves economics, politics, geography, metallurgy, and art. So it has stimulated my curiosity in many ways and allowed me to meet, correspond with and talk with many wonderful people around the world. I'm still writing, exploring, and collecting but at a slower pace than formerly. I have been educated further by investigating problems in other fields due to discussions with specialists in other disciplines. My research and writing has made me devote more time to learn to increase my capacity to think as my MIT training trained me to do.

No. 1

I set up the EPNNES foundation in 1958 to encourage study, research, and writing on numismatics, particularly American numismatics. Based on research and examination of EPNNES items, including its extensive library, many articles and books, some by me and some by others have been published over the years in various numismatic publications. We've loaned materials to the Smithsonian, the ANS and other museums from time to time.

We first set up a numismatic museum in a St. Louis bank in 1981 and moved it to other St. Louis banks from time to time until we established the NEWMAN MONEY MUSEUM at WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS in 2006 where it now is operated and will continue to operate. It includes a large numismatic library.

It is undertaking to sell from time to time items not essential for the operation of the Museum and the proceeds for any such sales will be donated to other not-for-profit institutions selected by the officers of EPNNES.

No. 2

My grandfather gave me an 1859 copper – nickel Indian Head one cent piece when I was 7 years old (1918). I placed it in a drawer in my child-size desk. In due course I occasionally found in examining change which I and others received Indian Head cents made of only copper and with other dates of minting. This fascinated me and I asked my parents to take me downtown in St. Louis where there was a coin store. I soon could go from my home to that coin store by myself on a street car. The round trip student fare cost 3 cents. My allowance was 5 cents per week. I had to save enough to go downtown to buy a coin or so. This began my collection of various coins. I was a Boy Scout 12 years old and giving talks on coins to other Scouts.

The coin dealer downtown was Burdette G. Johnson. On one visit to his store he refused to sell me the coin I selected because I knew nothing about it, but if I would take home a book he would lend me and recite the coin's history on my next visit, he would sell it to me. Thus became a practice. He stimulated my numismatic research and became my mentor and friend thereafter.



Gmail



in:sent

Compose

Inbox

4

Starred

Snoozed

Sent

Drafts



[Redacted]

12



Saved



Sent Items



Spam

2



Trash

5



Eric

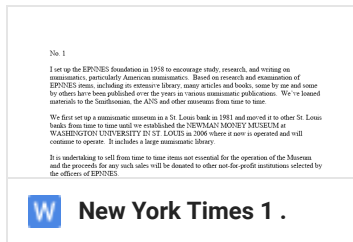
+

New York Times 1 & 2

× ericnumis@



to andyrama, GerryBall2



Reply

Reply all

Forward

No recent chats

[Start a new one](#)

Enable desktop notifications for Gmail.

OK

No thanks



Eric Newman &lt;[REDACTED]&gt;

---

**New York Times Interview**

1 message

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[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
to: [REDACTED]

Fri, Oct 11, 2013 at 3:07 PM

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Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

---

## New York Times interview regarding Heritage auction

3 messages

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Matthew Healey <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Sep 30, 2013 at 2:42 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Newman,

I have heard from Heritage Auctions about their upcoming sale of your collection, and I am honored that you have chosen to grant The New York Times an interview. As you may recall, we communicated back in the spring when I was doing a story about the Liberty Head nickel.

I would be delighted to send you some questions about your collection and your lifetime's work in numismatics. I understand email is your preferred way to communicate just now, which is fine.

I will send you some questions later today at this address, if that is OK.

Warmest regards,

~~~~~

Matthew Healey
for The New York Times.

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
To: [REDACTED]

Mon, Sep 30, 2013 at 10:07 PM

Sure it is OK. I look forward to hearing from you.

Eric

[Quoted text hidden]

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
To: Matthew Healey <[REDACTED]>
Bcc: Andy Newman <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Oct 14, 2013 at 3:24 PM

1.

I set up the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society in 1958 to encourage study, research, and writing on numismatics, particularly American numismatics. Based on research and examination of EPNNES items, including its extensive library, many articles and books, some by me and some by others have been published over the years in various numismatic publications. We've loaned materials to the Smithsonian, the ANS and other museums from time to time.

We first set up a numismatic museum in a St. Louis bank in 1981 and moved it to other St. Louis banks from time to time until we established the Newman Money Museum at Washington University in St. Louis in 2006 where it now is operated and will continue to operate. It includes a large numismatic library.

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4.

I do care about rarity and fineness of a numismatic specimen, but the backstory is key---not the sentimental aspect but rather why it was created, by whom, when, and by what method. I have especially enjoyed the times when I have had to discover the answers to some of those questions myself via lengthy research. For example, I have had the privilege of describing for the first time the original nature printing process which was invented by Benjamin Franklin (a particular hero of mine) in 1775 and used under his direction thereafter for paper money printed for the Continental Congress and for some independent States of the United States prior to the end of the American Revolution. The backs of the paper money using this process featured leaves and parts of botanical material. This was a fascinating area of research for me.

5.

I would never sell the coins on the necklace Evelyn was wearing when we met in 1938. We'll be celebrating our 74th wedding anniversary next month.

6.

I think the two most important acquisitions I have been fortunate enough to make were the many fine items from the Col. E.H.R. Green estate in the 1940's and Harley Freeman's entire collection of American colonial paper money in the 1950's. The Freeman acquisition took place because of his desire to encourage me to write an all-encompassing book on early American paper money, which I eventually did in 1967. The fifth edition came out a few years ago, and I am currently working on the sixth edition.

As to any numismatic items which I wished to have but got away from me, I can mention a 1690-91 Massachusetts Colony circulating paper money note. There are no existing examples of unaltered pieces

known. Those which do exist had been fraudulently altered to a higher denomination to cheat the public during circulation. I was offered such a piece for \$5,000. Originally I had no desire to acquire pieces for my collection which had been tampered with in that manner. Collecting counterfeits of any item was acceptable to me since a genuine original might also be acquired.

Then I changed my mind because I knew I would never obtain one of the issue because no unaltered pieces existed. The seller wanted only cash and no check. I declined because I didn't want to be involved in any potential income tax problem. That item is now worth over 25 times its then selling price. Que sera sera.

7.

Two come to mind. One of my most satisfying experiences as a numismatist was my 12 years of continuous work with the legal teams representing the American Numismatic Society (ANS) to recover a large portion of its early US one cent collection which was stolen from it in the 1960's. I selected the legal team (being a member of the Board of Trustees of ANS) and then participated in the extensive litigation and negotiations in California and New York that accomplished the recoveries.

Second, I recently discovered the first bird engraving of John James Audubon, the image of an eastern grouse. Audubon when visiting Philadelphia in 1824 mentions in his diary that he submitted a sketch of that bird to a bank note engraver to demonstrate his artistic ability. The sketch or a copy of it had never been located by scholars or otherwise ever since.

Robert Peck, president of The Academy of Natural Sciences, of Philadelphia, requested me to try to determine if an engraving of a sketch of a grouse had ever been undertaken. I undertook that search and located the engraving of a grouse as part of some bank note sample sheets prepared by Murray, Draper, Fairman, a Philadelphia firm, to offer to its customers. Selections were then made by its customers for their bank note proofs. My findings were published in Journal of the Early Republic (Fall 2010) and have been accepted throughout the world by those interested.

Of course, in the process of my research I was able to find in our collection and also to acquire several examples of these engravings of Audubon's grouse, and they are now on display at the Newman Money Museum at Washington University in St. Louis.

8.

Focus on the art, the history, the science, and the charm that are a part of every numismatic item. It's fascinating and fun. Don't focus on the value of the item---the scourge of inflation will take care of that.

If you wish further detail in any of the areas suggested by my answers to your questions, please feel free to contact me and I will be glad to make additions and clarifications.

Eric

From: Matthew Healey

Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 2:42 PM

To: [REDACTED]

[Quoted text hidden]

